Setting up of Media Lab

3345. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a Committee to take care of attack on critical infrastructure networks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal for setting up a "media lab' in the country with the help of Massachussets Institute of Technology in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the financial requirement of setting the "media lab?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The Government is considering to set up a high level security panel to ensure protection of inforamtion infrastructure in the critical sectors in the country on the lines of National Infrastructure Protection Centre set up in USA. However, no firm proposal in this regard has yet been drawn up.

(c) to (e) A proposal to set up Media Lab Inida in collaboration with Massachussets Institute of Technology, USA is under consideration. It will focus on developing technologies of the future in the field of IT such as Internet and Multimedia and aim at generating ideas and entrepreneurship of international calibre, focus on use of futurisitc technologies for solving problems, of Indian context; and create ambience for studetns, faculty, entrepreneurs, industry and users to work together in a creative environment. To consider the matter further and prepare a detailed project document, a Technical Committee and a Steering Committee have been set up.

Foreign Companies Investment in I.T. Sector

3346. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any foreign companies have been allowed to invest in the IT sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government to accelerate development in the IT Sector to keep pace with the international IT sector; and